GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1273
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2003
DEVELOPMENT OF WASTELAND
GORDHANBHAI JAVIA;SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL;V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of achievements made under various technologies for increasing the productivity of wasteland as on date;

(b)the quantum of wasteland in the country developed for agricultural purpose through different centrally sponsored projects, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have time bound plan for development of wasteland;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether most of the projects under IWDP are not progressing well due to lack of people`s participation;

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to overcome this problem;

(g) whether the Government propose to plan to reduce the project completion time from five years to three years;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) Research Institutions/Organizations under Central and State Governments and State Agricultural Universities have developed technologies for improving the soil health and productivity of different types of wastelands and degraded lands. The Statement showing technologies for some of the problem lands/wastelands is given at Annexure I. The recommended technologies are adopted by the Project Implementing Agencies in the various ongoing land based development programmes.

(b) The Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three major area development programmes namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme, (IWDP) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) for the development of wastelands/degraded lands on watershed basis, aimed at checking land degradation and putting such lands to productive use. Under these programmes, watershed projects have been sanctioned to cover 16.35 m.ha. area of wastelands up to 31st March 2003. State-wise details are at Annexure.II.

(c) & (d) Land degradation is a dynamic process and can result from inherent/imposed disabilities. Development of wastelands require huge funds. Efforts have been made to enhance the budget allocation for covering more areas in the wastelands development programmes of the Department of Land Resources. Against the budget provision of Rs.324.0 crores in 1999-2000, it has been increased to Rs.1050.0 crores in 2003-04.

(e) & (f) The Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Programmes of Ministry of Rural Development (including that for IWDP) formulated in 1994, envisages the active involvement of local people in the implementation of the watershed projects through Watershed Associations, Watershed Committees, Self help Groups, User Groups etc. Mid-term evaluation and impact assessment of the watershed projects under IWDP, revealed involvement of local people in the implementation of the projects at all stages. However, in order to ensure greater participation of beneficiaries/peoples in the implementation of watershed projects under IWDP, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has launched a new initiative called HARIYALI w.e.f. 1.4.2003 with the objective of empowering the Panchayati Raj Institutions both administratively and financially to plan, executive and maintain the assests created under the watershed development projects by the Gram Panchayat under the guidance and control of the Gram Sabha.

(g), (h) & (i) No Sir. Implementation of the watershed development projects consist of various phases namely Preparatory and Planning Phase involving community organization, capacity building & training, Implementation Phase involving execution of various activities in the watershed and Maintenance Phase specially for plantation. Therefore, five years is a reasonable period for implementation of a watershed project.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1273 DUE FOR I

ON 29.7.2003

DETAILS OF TECHNOLOGIES FOR MAJOR CATEGORIES OF WASTELANDS

Keeping in view the geo-location and type of wastelands, Govt. of India through its various research organisations viz. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific & Industrial(CSIR), State Agricultural universities (SAUs) and othe organizations, have developed suitable technologies to improve the soil health and land productivity of various types of degraded lands/wastelands. Some of the technologies for major categories of culturable wastelands are given below:

1. Sandy Areas

The technologies developed for the problem of Sandy areas includes stubble mulching, strip cropping, raising of grasses, shelter belts & wind breaks for arid & semi arid areas and halophytic plantation in coastal sandy areas.

2. Land with or without scrub/sheet erosion areas:

To reduce run-off water through increasing infiltration and water harvesting, land shaping/leveling, diversion bunds, graded terracing & trenches, check dams techniques have been developed. For degraded areas, different applicable technologies have also been perfected for their conservation, improvement, & high productivity through agro-forestry systems.

3. Shifting Cultivation Areas:

Appropriate land use to prevent shifting cultivation have been developed by introducing agricultural land use on the lower slopes, horticultural crops on mild slopes and grasses & forestry on the top. Contour bunds, bench terraces, half moon terraces, grassed water ways and silting basins are the conservation measures required.

4. Salt Affected Soils:

(a) Alkali Soil: Bunding & levelling, assured irrigation, surface drainage, gypsum & pyrite application followed by leaching & crop production.

(b)Saline Soils: Land levelling & grading, surface drainage, crop mangement & augar hole technique for plantation of trees.

(c) Acid Soils: Addition of lime/dolomite based on lime requirement has been demonstrated successfully.

5. Waterlogged Areas:

Surface drainage, sub-surface drainage and bio-drainage have successfully been demonstrated for development of waterlogged areas.

6. Gullied/Ravinous Areas:

Land levelling, terracing, contour/graded bunding, gully head control structures, loose bolder structures etc. are recommended. Bio-engineering measures of gabion toe walls, spurs, drop structures, mulching, contour wattling, plantation & protection have proved successful in stabilization of land slides, torrents & mined spoils in hilly areas.

7. Mine Spoiled Areas:

Plantations, usage of bio fertilizer, conversion of back fill area through sawdust, fly ash, gypsum, farm yard manure & green manure, utilization of solid waster compost in ash pond, utilization of industrial waste & by product and hitech sewage farm etc. have been used for reclamation of mine spoiled areas successfully.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1273 DUE FOR I ON 29.7.2003

STATEMENT SHOWING THE AREA COVERED UNDER VARIOUS WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES C DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES DURING 1995-96 TO 2002-2003

(Area in lakh ha.)

S.No.	STATE	IWDP	DPAP	DDP	TOTAL
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.679	14.830	2.762	21.271
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.639	-	-	0.639
3.	Assam	2.897	-	-	2.897

4.Bihar 0.090 1.175 - 1.265

5.Chattisgarh 0.991 3.265 - 4.256
6.Gujarat 2.551 6.795 8.380 17.726

7Haryana 0.477 - 3.270 3.747

8.Himachal Pradesh 2.449 1.190 1.855 5.494

9.Jammu & Kashmir 0.574 1.370 2.680 4.624
10.Jharkhand 0.247 4.095 - 4.342
11.Karnataka 2.336 6.930 4.16 13.426
12.Kerala 0.295 - - 0.295
13.Madhya Pradesh 3.208 10.430 - 13.638
14.Maharashtra 2.131 11.055 - 13.186
15.Manipur 1.189 - - 1.189
16.Meghalaya 0.347 - - 0.347
17.Mizoram 1.538 - - 1.538
18.Nagaland 2.359 - - 2.359
19.Orissa 2.135 3.420 - 5.555
20.Punjab 0.147 - - 0.147
21.Rajasthan 2.317 3.400 18.465 24.182
22.Sikkim 0.780 - - 0.780
23.Tamil Nadu 1.722 4.520 - 6.242
24.Tripura 0.194 - - 0.194
25.Uttar Pradesh 4.105 5.330 - 9.435
26.Uttranchal 1.133 2.260 - 3.393
27.West Bengal 0.055 1.275 - 1.330

Total 40.585 81.340 41.572 163.497